



THE FLU

Criminal collections by the FLU include both collection of monies owed to victims of crimes for restitution as well as fines and special assessments owed by convicted criminals to the United States. In most cases, collections in criminal cases, other than restitution, are turned over to the Crime Victim's Fund, which is administered by the United

2010	\$12,991,218.11
2009	\$3,349,764.08
2008	\$26,357,110.27
2007	\$4,482,260.70

In each of these years the total amount of criminal and civil collections was far in excess of the office's operating budget. Hats off to our FLU. Thanks for your hard work.

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United States Attorney A. Courtney Cox will enter private practice on August 30, 2010, joining Sandberg Phoenix & von Gontard P.C. The firm has offices in St. Louis, Missouri, and Edwardsville and Carbondale, Illinois. United States Attorney Cox will join the Carbondale office. His practice will consist of business and employment law.



**Stephen R. Wigginton
Appointed United States Attorney
for the Southern District of Illinois,
Awaiting Oath of Office**

Stephen R. Wigginton was recently appointed by President Barack Obama to become the United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois. He was previously confirmed by the United States Senate. Mr. Wigginton will be sworn in by Chief District Court Judge David R. Herndon on Friday, August 27, 2010. Mr. Wigginton will replace A. Courtney Cox, who has served as United States Attorney since November 2007.

"I am honored to serve as the United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois. I intend to vigorously enforce the laws of the United States in a fair, just, and impartial manner. I will be guided by the powerful statement of the U.S. Supreme Court in the 1935 case of Berger v. United States. The Supreme Court explained that '[t]he United States Attorney is the representative not of an ordinary party to a controversy, but of a sovereignty whose obligation to govern impartially is as compelling as its obligation to govern at all; and whose interest, therefore, in a criminal prosecution is not that it shall win a case, but that justice shall be done. As such, he is in a peculiar and very definite sense the servant of the law, the twofold aim of which is that guilt shall not escape or innocence suffer. He may prosecute with earnestness and vigor—indeed he should do so. But while he may strike hard blows, he is not at liberty to strike foul ones. It is as much his duty to refrain from improper methods calculated to produce a wrongful conviction as it is to use every legitimate means to bring about a just one.' Those words are as true and important today as they were in 1935. I am thankful to all of those who have helped me throughout my career achieve this great honor."

Mr. Wigginton, age 47, graduated from Southern Illinois University—Edwardsville's School of Business in 1985 and the St. Louis University School of Law in 1988. President Obama nominated Mr. Wigginton to serve as U.S. Attorney in April 2010.

Mr. Wigginton has been a shareholder in the Belleville law firm of Weilmuenster & Wigginton, P.C., since November 2000. In addition, he has served as a part time Assistant State's Attorney in the Felony Division of the Madison County State's Attorney's Office since February 1999. In the early 1990s, he served as an assistant Circuit Attorney in the City of St. Louis prosecuting a variety of criminal cases. Mr. Wigginton was born in East St. Louis, Illinois, and is a lifelong resident of the Metro-East area.



DEA Agent Neil Rohlfing supervises Saint Louis University law student Kristen Henke.

July 28, 2010: Law Enforcement Coordinator Ronald Shownes conducted a four-hour firearms safety and skills class for the summer law interns working at the United States Attorney's Office. The afternoon was spent at the Granite City Pistol Range under the supervision of LEC Shownes, DEA Task Force Agents Derek Parker and Neil Rohlfing, IRS Special Agent Mary Hammond, and Troy Police Department Lieutenant Brent Shownes.



Lieutenant Brent Shownes instructs Washington University law student Elizabeth Chen.



DEA Agent Derek Parker instructs University of Illinois law student Elliott Hellman.



Special Agent Mary Hammond instructs Washington University law student Helena Bell.

August 2, 2010: The city of Alton, Illinois, kicked-off the Anti-Crime National Night Out. United States Attorney A. Courtney Cox, Law Enforcement Coordinator Ronald Shownes, Assistant United States Attorney Donald Boyce, and Retired Assistant United States Attorney Thomas Daly attended the event. U.S. Attorney Cox presented James O. Weisenheimer, a resident of Alton, with a United States Department of Justice Public Service Award for his efforts with Alton's Weed and Seed program.



August 7, 2010: LEC Ronald Shownes coordinated an Operation Safe Kids fingerprinting event at Anderson Hospital in Maryville, Illinois. Assisting were (from left to right) Detective Mike Keshner of the Madison County Sheriff's Department (seated), Officer Tony Luther of the Troy Police Department (seated), Special Agent Chris Williams of the U.S. Secret Service (standing), Officer Jared Missey of the Maryville Police Department (standing), and Detective Paul Cates of the Glen Carbon Police Department (standing). Ruthie Shownes (not pictured) is getting release forms signed from parents. The team was able to provide 73 parents with digital fingerprints and photographs of their children.



Recent Noteworthy Cases

COCAINE

On July 22, 2010, at the conclusion of a trial which started on July 19, 2010, a federal jury in East St. Louis, Illinois, convicted **JOHN WYSINGER**, age 41, of Chicago, Illinois, of conspiracy to distribute and possession with intent to distribute cocaine and of aiding and abetting the possession with intent to distribute cocaine. The jury returned special verdicts indicating that the amount of cocaine involved in the conspiracy was five kilograms or more and that the amount of cocaine in the aiding and abetting charge was 500 grams or more. **WYSINGER** faces a sentence of ten years to life imprisonment, at least five years' supervised release, and a fine of up to \$4,000,000. Sentencing is currently scheduled for November 9, 2010, in East St. Louis.

The investigation was conducted by the Drug Enforcement Administration, Phelps County Missouri Sheriff's Department, and Rolla, Missouri Police Department under the auspices of the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force, an initiative designed to provide a coordinated effort of federal, state, and local law enforcement to target, dismantle, and prosecute national and international drug trafficking organizations.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Andrew R. Simonson.

On July 23, 2010, **ROBERT D. WILLIAMS**, age 26, of Cahokia, Illinois, was sentenced in the U.S. District Court in East St. Louis, Illinois. **WILLIAMS**, who had pled guilty to possession with the intent to distribute crack cocaine on October 15, 2009, was sentenced to 60 months' imprisonment, four years' supervised release, a \$500 fine, and a \$100 special assessment.

The investigation was conducted by the Drug

Enforcement Administration and St. Clair County Sheriff's Department.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Ranley R. Killian and Daniel T. Kapsak.

On July 30, 2010, **VICTOR L. CANADA**, age 27, of Shiloh, Illinois, was sentenced in the U.S. District Court in East St. Louis, Illinois, to 60 months' imprisonment, eight years' supervised release, a \$500 fine, and a \$100 special assessment. **CANADA** had previously pled guilty on April 8, 2010, to a single count of possession of crack cocaine within 1000 feet of a school with the intent to distribute. The violation took place in St. Clair County in Illinois.

The investigation was conducted by the Metropolitan Enforcement Group of Southwestern Illinois.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Stephen B. Clark.

On August 12, 2010, **HILARIO MEDINA**, age 45, of Houston, Texas, was charged in a one-count criminal complaint of possession with intent to distribute five kilograms or more of cocaine, which carries a penalty of between ten years to life imprisonment, five years to life supervised release, and a fine of up to \$5,000,000.

MEDINA appeared in court and was ordered detained by a U.S. Magistrate Judge in the U.S. District Court in East St. Louis, Illinois, pending further proceedings.

The investigation is being conducted by the Granite City, Illinois, Police Department and the Drug Enforcement Administration.

Recent Noteworthy Cases, continued

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Ranley R. Killian.

DRUGS AND GUNS

On August 19, 2010, **REGINALD MOSES**, age 25, of East St. Louis, Illinois, was convicted at the conclusion of a three-day trial by a jury in the U.S. District Court in East St. Louis, Illinois, of conspiracy to interfere with commerce by threats or violence, interference with commerce by threats or violence, and of possession of a firearm in furtherance of a crime of violence. The violations took place on June 15, 2009, in Madison County, Illinois. **MOSES** is currently scheduled to be sentenced on December 6, 2010.

The evidence at trial showed that **MOSES** and others robbed a drug dealer at gunpoint and took over 600 grams of crack cocaine from the drug dealer's house. After the robbery, a vehicle chase ensued, in which the victim drug dealer chased the robbers' vehicle through multiple counties, and **MOSES** fired shots at the drug dealer's vehicle.

Each of the counts of conspiracy to interfere with commerce by threats or violence, and of interference with commerce by threats or violence carries penalties of up to 20 years' imprisonment, a fine of up to \$250,000, or both, up to three years' supervised release, and a \$100 special assessment. Because the firearm was discharged, the offense of possession of a firearm in furtherance of a crime of violence carries with it penalties of at least ten years' imprisonment consecutive to any sentence imposed on the other counts, up to five years' supervised release, a fine of up to \$250,000, and a \$100 special assessment.

The investigation was conducted by the

Alton Police Department, Granite City Police Department, and Drug Enforcement Administration.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Donald S. Boyce.

METHAMPHETAMINE

On August 5, 2010, **DAVID K. HOLIFIELD**, age 26, of Holcomb, Missouri, pled guilty to a one-count indictment charging conspiracy to manufacture methamphetamine. The violation took place between April 2008 and September 2009 in Union and Jackson Counties in Illinois.

The offense carries a penalty of five to 40 years' imprisonment, at least four years' supervised release, and a fine of up to \$2,000,000. **HOLIFIELD** is currently scheduled to be sentenced on November 4, 2010, in the U.S. District Court in Benton, Illinois. Two co-defendants have previously been sentenced for their roles in the methamphetamine conspiracy. Three co-defendants have pled not guilty and are awaiting a jury trial which is currently scheduled for September 20, 2010. One co-defendant remains a fugitive.

The investigation was conducted by the Union County Sheriff's Office, Jackson County Sheriff's Office, and Murphysboro Police Department, in cooperation with the Union County State's Attorney Tyler Edmonds and Jackson County State's Attorney Michael Wepsiec as part of the Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative, a cooperative effort of local, state, and federal law enforcement, and state and federal prosecuting authorities, aimed at ridding communities of illegal drugs and guns.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Amanda A. Robertson.

Recent Noteworthy Cases, continued

MARIJUANA

On July 23, 2010, **JEREMY MALONE**, age 25, of Fort Worth, Texas, was sentenced in the U.S. District Court in East St. Louis, Illinois. **MALONE** was sentenced to 60 months' imprisonment, four years' supervised release, a \$500 fine, and a \$100 special assessment. **MALONE** had previously pled guilty on April 12, 2010, to an indictment charging him with possession with the intent to distribute marijuana.

The investigation was conducted by the Drug Enforcement Administration.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Andrew R. Simonson.

On August 13, 2010, **KENNETH CONNALLY**, age 53, of Albuquerque, New Mexico, was sentenced to 30 months' imprisonment, three years' supervised release, a \$400 fine, and a \$100 special assessment fee.

CONNALLY pled guilty on May 5, 2010, in the U.S. District Court in East St. Louis, Illinois, to an indictment charging him with conspiracy to distribute and possession with the intent to distribute marijuana.

The investigation was conducted by the Drug Enforcement Administration under the auspices of the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force initiative.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Daniel T. Kapsak.

On August 16, 2010, three members of a methamphetamine conspiracy which had operated in Effingham County were sentenced in the U.S. District Court in Benton, Illinois. **ARNOLD A.**

CAMPBELL, age 34, of Effingham, Illinois, was sentenced to 262 months' imprisonment, eight years' supervised release, a \$600 fine, and a \$300 special assessment. **CAMPBELL** previously pled guilty on May 7, 2010, to an indictment charging him with conspiracy to manufacture and distribute 50 grams or more of methamphetamine (count 1); possession of pseudoephedrine with intent to manufacture methamphetamine (count 2); and possession of equipment, chemicals, products, and materials with intent to manufacture methamphetamine (count 3).

JOSEPH D. DOWNS, age 26, of Decatur, Illinois, was sentenced to 262 months' imprisonment, eight years' supervised release, a \$600 fine, and a \$300 special assessment. **DOWNS** previously pled guilty on May 17, 2010, to conspiracy to manufacture and distribute 50 grams or more of methamphetamine (count 1); possession of pseudoephedrine with intent to manufacture methamphetamine (count 4); and possession of equipment, chemicals, products and materials with intent to manufacture methamphetamine (count 5).

MELISSA WOODARD, age 25, of Edgewood, Illinois, was sentenced to 60 months' imprisonment, four years' supervised release, and a \$300 special assessment. **WOODARD** previously pled guilty on April 23, 2010, to conspiracy to manufacture and distribute 50 grams or more of methamphetamine (count 1); possession of pseudoephedrine with intent to manufacture methamphetamine (count 4); and possession of equipment, chemicals, products, and materials with intent to manufacture methamphetamine (count 5).

According to the indictment and to other court documents, the conspiracy operated in and

Recent Noteworthy Cases, continued

around Effingham County and elsewhere in the Southern District of Illinois from approximately September 2009 through approximately October 30, 2009.

The investigation was conducted by the Effingham County Sheriff's Office in cooperation with the Effingham County State's Attorney, Edward Deters, and the Drug Enforcement Administration as part of the Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Kit R. Morrissey.

DRUG OFFENSE

On August 16, 2010, **BRANDON R. LOWE**, age 21, of Dowell, Illinois, was sentenced in the U.S. District Court in Benton, Illinois. **LOWE**, who had previously pled guilty to a one-count indictment charging him with possession with intent to distribute 4-Bromo-2,5-Dimethoxyphenethylamine, in the form commonly called "2C-B," was sentenced to six months' imprisonment, three years' supervised release, and a \$300 fine.

The violation took place on August 6, 2009, in Jackson County, Illinois.

The investigation was conducted by Immigration and Customs Enforcement, U.S. Postal Inspection Service, Customs and Border Protection, Jackson County Sheriff's Office, Perry County Sheriff's Office, and Drug Enforcement Administration. In addition, the Jackson County State's Attorney's Office assisted during the investigation.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Amanda A. Robertson.

POSSESSION OF FIREARM BY A FELON

On July 30, 2010, **IRA E. GORE**, age 31, of Godfrey, Illinois, was sentenced in the U.S. District Court in East St. Louis, Illinois. **GORE** was sentenced to 46 months' imprisonment, three years' supervised release, a \$300 fine, and a \$100 special assessment. **GORE** pled guilty on April 22, 2010, to being a felon in possession of a firearm. The offense was committed on January 28, 2010.

The investigation was conducted by the Madison County Sheriff's Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Donald S. Boyce.

On July 30, 2010, **CORNELL LEFLORE**, age 33, of Cahokia, Illinois, was sentenced to 135 months' imprisonment and three years' supervised release following his conviction for possession of a firearm and transfer of a weapon to a prohibited person.

LEFLORE pled guilty to the charges on April 23, 2010. The offenses occurred in St. Clair County, Illinois, in September 2009.

The investigation was conducted by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Kit R. Morrissey and Deirdre A. Durborow.

On August 13, 2010, **RODNEY BROOKS**, age 23, of Carbondale, Illinois, was sentenced in the

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U.S. District Court in East St. Louis, Illinois. **BROOKS** pled guilty to an indictment charging him with possession of a firearm by a previously convicted felon on April 12, 2010. **BROOKS** was sentenced to 70 months' imprisonment, three years' supervised release, a \$375 fine, and a \$100 special assessment.

According to the stipulation of facts filed at the time of his plea, the violation occurred on June 16, 2009, when officers patrolling the Norman Owens Housing Complex in East St. Louis observed **BROOKS** acting suspiciously. When the officers approached **BROOKS** and the car in which he had been sitting, an officer spotted a gun lying on the passenger seat and partially hidden by a t-shirt. The gun was submitted to the Illinois State Police Metro-East Forensic Laboratory for fingerprint analysis. A latent print found on the gun confirmed that the gun had been possessed by **BROOKS** who had previously been convicted of a felony offense.

The investigation was conducted by Metropolitan Enforcement Group of Southwestern Illinois, U.S. Marshals Service, and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, in cooperation with the St. Clair County State's Attorney's Office, as part of the Project Safe Neighborhoods nationwide initiative intended to combat gun and drug crimes.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Angela Scott.

On August 13, 2010, **AHMAAD NUNLEY**, age 19, of Collinsville, Illinois, was sentenced in the U.S. District Court in East St. Louis, Illinois. **NUNLEY**, who had pled guilty on April 27, 2010, to possession of a firearm by a previously convicted felon and possession of a firearm with serial number removed, obliterated or altered, was

sentenced to 57 months' imprisonment, three years' supervised release, a \$375 fine, and a \$200 special assessment.

The investigation was conducted by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Stephen B. Clark and Robert L. Garrison.

CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

On July 30, 2010, **RICKY WALKER**, age 59, of Belleville, Illinois, was sentenced in the U.S. District Court in East St. Louis, Illinois. **WALKER** had previously pled guilty to a one-count indictment charging him with knowingly possessing child pornography. **WALKER** was sentenced to 78 months' imprisonment, lifetime supervised release, a \$750 fine, and a \$100 special assessment. The violation occurred in 2008.

The investigation was conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation Cybercrimes Task Force as part of the Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice. Led by United States Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state, and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Nicole E. Gorovsky.

Recent Noteworthy Cases, continued

On August 5, 2010, LARRY A. BECHEL, age 63, of Wood River, Illinois, was sentenced in the U.S. District Court in East St. Louis, Illinois, following his convictions of sexual exploitation of a minor, transportation of child pornography, and possession of child pornography. **BECHEL** pled guilty to the three offenses on July 2, 2010. **BECHEL** was sentenced to a total of 200 months' imprisonment, lifetime supervised release, a \$25,000 fine, and a \$300 special assessment.

According to the stipulation of facts that was filed at the time of **BECHEL's** plea of guilty, these violations occurred between February 9 and March 7, 2004, when **BECHEL** traveled to from his residence in Wood River, Illinois, to Canada to have sexual intercourse with a minor who lived in Canada. **BECHEL** used, persuaded, induced and/or enticed the minor to engage in sexually explicit conduct while in Canada with the intent to take photographs of this sexually explicit conduct. **BECHEL** then transported the photographs from Canada to his residence in Wood River, Illinois, in the United States, on a memory card installed inside the digital camera he used to take the photographs of the minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct.

When **BECHEL** returned to his residence on May 7, 2004, he downloaded the 22 visual depictions of the minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct from his digital camera's memory card to his computer. He later used his computer to make a CD of the images. **BECHEL** possessed the CD containing the pornographic images from on or about March 8, 2004, until the CD was recovered during a search of his house on July 28, 2006.

In a voluntary statement to agents from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), **BECHEL** admitted meeting the minor, who

he knew was 15 years old at the time, on the internet. **BECHEL** stated that he was interested in an intimate relationship with the minor, and therefore traveled to Canada on two separate occasions with the intent to have sexual intercourse with the minor. **BECHEL** stated that, on the second trip, he rented a hotel room for him and the minor in Vancouver, Canada. He said that, while in the hotel room, he had sexual intercourse with the minor and also took nude photographs of her on her sixteenth birthday.

U.S. Attorney Cox stated, "The United States Attorney's Office will continue to vigorously prosecute those who exploit our children. Working with our law enforcement partners, we will seek to identify, investigate, and prosecute those who violate the child pornography and other exploitation laws of this country."

"This lengthy sentence serves as a stern warning to Americans who travel across our nation's borders to sexually exploit innocent children," said James Ward, Resident Agent-in-Charge of ICE - Office of Homeland Security Investigations in St. Louis. "Removing these brazen predators from our streets helps protect the most vulnerable and innocent members of society – our children."

The investigation was conducted by the Wood River Police Department, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Vancouver Police Department, and ICE as part of the Project Safe Childhood initiative.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Angela Scott and Stephen B. Clark.

On August 16, 2010, KENNETH L. GORDON, age 28, of Carterville, Illinois, was sentenced in

Recent Noteworthy Cases, continued

the U.S. District Court in Benton, Illinois. **GORDON** was sentenced to 80 months' imprisonment, 15 years' supervised release, and a \$1,000 fine.

GORDON had previously pled guilty to a one-count federal Indictment charging him with possession of child pornography that has been mailed or shipped or transported in interstate commerce by any means, including by computer.

The investigation was conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation Southern Illinois Cyber Crimes Task Force, Carterville Police Department, and a number of state and local law enforcement agencies as part of the Project Safe Childhood initiative.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney George A. Norwood.

On August 3, 2010, **ROBERT R. SHIPLEY**, age 30, of Louisville, Illinois, was named in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Benton, Illinois, charging him with distribution of child pornography (count 1) and possession of child pornography (count 2).

With respect to count 1, **SHIPLEY** faces a maximum penalty of 15 to 40 years' imprisonment, five years to lifetime supervised release, and a fine of up to \$250,000. Count 2 carries a possible penalty of ten to 20 years' imprisonment, five years to lifetime supervised release, and a fine of up to \$250,000.

The investigation was conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation Southern Illinois Cyber Crimes Task Force, Illinois Attorney General's Office Crimes Against Children Task Force, and a number of state and local law enforcement agencies as part of the Project Safe Childhood Initiative.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney George A. Norwood.

DEPRIVATION OF CIVIL RIGHTS

On July 29, 2010, **DUSTIN G. WHITEHEAD**, age 28, of Marion, Illinois, formerly a police officer for the city of Marion, was sentenced to 20 weekends in jail on a one-count information charging him with deprivation of rights under color of law. The jail sentence was imposed as part of a four-year sentence of probation where he is also required to perform 50 hours of public service and pay a fine of \$2,000.

At his sentencing, **WHITEHEAD** admitted that on August 14, 2009, while serving as a police officer for the city of Marion, he willfully and without legal justification kicked an arrested person two times, despite the fact that the person's hands were cuffed behind his back as he sat in the back seat of the police car. **WHITEHEAD** also admitted that he lied under oath on January 6, 2010, to a hearing officer from the State of Illinois Department of Employment Security during his appeal over the loss of his unemployment benefits. **WHITEHEAD** had appealed a decision denying unemployment benefits after he was put on administrative leave without pay by the Marion Police Department following the incident. During that hearing he falsely claimed under oath that he had not struck the victim in this case and that there was no proof.

WHITEHEAD pled guilty on April 26, 2010. As part of his plea, he agreed to immediately resign his position as a police officer for the city of Marion and to refrain from ever seeking or accepting employment as a police officer, jailer, correctional officer, military police officer, or deputy sheriff. In addition, he has submitted an

Recent Noteworthy Cases, continued

affidavit, which was signed in court, to the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board, affirming that he would not seek future law enforcement employment.

The investigation was conducted by the Illinois State Police, Marion Police Department, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and Williamson County State's Attorney's Office.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Michael C. Carr.

ILLEGAL REENTRY AFTER DEPORTATION

On August 13, 2010, **WILMER OMAR MENDEZ-NUNEZ**, age 25, of Honduras, was sentenced in the U.S. District Court in East St. Louis, Illinois, to 12 months and one day imprisonment. **MENDEZ-NUNEZ** had previously pled guilty to transporting an illegal alien and illegal reentry after deportation.

According to a stipulation of facts filed at the time of the plea, **MENDEZ-NUNEZ** was stopped by the Illinois State Police for a traffic violation on February 17, 2010. It was then discovered that all eight of his passengers were illegal aliens. **MENDEZ-NUNEZ** admitted that he was being paid to transport the passengers within the United States.

Present in the vehicle as one of the passengers was **ALEXANDER ACOSTA-LEAL**, age 36, of Columbia. Also on August 13, 2010, **ACOSTA-LEAL** was sentenced to eight months' imprisonment following his plea of guilty to the offense of illegal reentry after deportation.

MENDEZ-NUNEZ and **ACOSTA-LEAL** have been in custody since their arrests on February 17, 2010. Following service of their sentences,

they will be taken into the custody of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement for deportation proceedings. None of the other passengers being transported by **MENDEZ-NUNEZ** had a prior history of deportation. They were held for several weeks as material witnesses in the **MENDEZ-NUNEZ** prosecution and were then remanded to the custody of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement for deportation proceedings.

The investigation was conducted by the Illinois State Police and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Kelly B. Lake and Suzanne M. Garrison.

COUNTERFEITING

On August 5, 2010, **RAMON THOMAS**, age 34, of Belleville, Illinois, pled guilty to a four-count indictment charging him with manufacturing counterfeit obligations, possession of counterfeit obligations, and two counts of passing counterfeit obligations. A federal grand jury had previously returned the indictment against **THOMAS** on April 6, 2010.

At his plea hearing, **THOMAS** admitted to a November 2, 2009, incident in which he was sitting in a car outside an East St. Louis business and cutting sheets of printed counterfeit currency into bill-sized notes. **THOMAS** admitted providing other individuals with counterfeit currency to enter the business to purchase items and to receive genuine cash back as change for the purchases. East St. Louis police apprehended **THOMAS** and the other individuals in the parking lot of the business and a "parent" note of genuine currency with a serial number matching

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seized counterfeit currency was found on **THOMAS**. **THOMAS** also admitted to a separate January 16, 2010, incident in which he provided other individuals with counterfeit currency to provide to a Sauget business shortly before being apprehended by Sauget Police. Each count carries a maximum penalty of up to 20 years' imprisonment, a fine of up to \$250,000.00, or both, and up to three years' supervised release. **THOMAS** is currently scheduled to be sentenced on November 12, 2010.

The investigation was conducted by the U.S. Secret Service, East St. Louis Police Department, and Sauget Police Department.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Kevin F. Burke.

HURRICANE KATRINA SCAM

On August 18, 2010, **JESSE L. ROBINSON**, age 57, and his spouse, **LATONYA ROBINSON**, age 40, both of Washington Park, Illinois, were indicted by a federal grand jury sitting in East St. Louis, Illinois, with one count of conspiracy to commit mail fraud and three counts of mail fraud in connection with their application for, and receipt of, benefits intended for victims of Hurricane Katrina.

LATONYA ROBINSON was also charged with one count of making false statements to U.S. Postal Inspectors who were investigating the Hurricane Katrina fraud and with four counts of making false statements to the U.S. Department of Agriculture in connection with her collection of food stamp benefits.

Conspiracy to commit mail fraud and mail fraud are punishable by a term of up to 20 years' imprisonment. Making false statements is pun-

ishable by a term of up to five years' imprisonment. Each of the nine counts of the indictment carries a fine of up to \$250,000 and a term of up to three years' supervised release.

The investigation was conducted by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture - Office of Inspector General, and the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services - Office of Inspector General - Bureau of Investigations. This case was brought as part of this district's partnership with the National Center for Disaster Fraud (NCDF), a nationwide initiative to protect available funds and assistance for those victims of both natural and man-made disasters such as hurricanes, floods, tornadoes, and the recent Gulf oil spill. If you have knowledge of fraud, waste, abuse or allegations of mismanagement involving disaster relief operations, you can contact the NCDF by either calling the hotline at (866) 720-5721, faxing the hotline at (225) 334-4707, emailing at disaster@leo.gov or in writing to National Center for Disaster Fraud, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4909.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Suzanne M. Garrison.

WIRE AND MAIL FRAUD

On July 22, 2010, **TIMOTHY P. KEBEL**, age 34, of O'Fallon, Illinois, pled guilty to wire fraud and mail fraud in the U.S. District Court in East St. Louis, Illinois. **KEBEL** also admitted a forfeiture allegation related to two personally-owned computers used to commit the crimes.

Evidence introduced at the hearing demonstrated that **KEBEL** accessed the eBay.com website to bid on on-line auctions in which 2006 St. Louis Cardinal NLCS and World Series tickets

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were offered for sale. When **KEBEL** won an auction for game tickets, he would complete a form of payment so that the seller would ship or otherwise deliver the tickets to him. After winning the auction and receiving the tickets, **KEBEL** would dispute the charges with his credit card company by falsely alleging that he did not receive the tickets that were purchased and received. The scheme allowed **KEBEL** to obtain tickets that were valued in excess of \$100,000 at no cost to him, through fraud, and then resell the tickets for financial gain. **KEBEL** participated in 131 internet auctions through the eBay.com website, using alias names and utilizing 46 different email addresses.

The crimes of wire and mail fraud each carries a maximum possible penalty of 20 years' imprisonment or a \$250,000 fine, or both, up to three years' supervised release, and mandatory restitution. **KEBEL** is currently scheduled to be sentenced on November 5, 2010, in the U.S. District Court in East St. Louis.

The investigation was conducted by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Steven D. Weinhoeft.

MAIL FRAUD AND MONEY LAUNDERING

On August 2, 2010, **LAVERN HUELSMANN**, age 44, of Trenton, Illinois, was sentenced to 87 months' imprisonment, three years' supervised release, and was ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$1,817,074.84 to victims of his investment fraud as a result of his convictions for mail fraud and money laundering. In addition, a criminal forfeiture for his residence, his automobile, money held in various accounts, various equipment, gold coins, and assorted jewelry was

ordered.

According to evidence presented in open court, **HUELSMANN** admitted that he engaged in a fraudulent promissory note and Ponzi scheme that enticed elderly individuals residing in the Southern District of Illinois and elsewhere into paying over almost \$1,900,000 to him doing business as Senior Retirement Services. **HUELSMANN** used these commingled funds for his own personal use, to increase his personal wealth and possessions, to build, decorate, and accessorize his residence located in Trenton, Illinois, to gamble, to finance his investments and cover his personal investments of margin calls, to finance miscellaneous business and personal expenses, and to make lulling payments to his clients. Victims spoke at the sentencing.

The investigation was conducted by the Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigation Division, U.S. Postal Inspection Service, and Illinois Securities Department.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Norman R. Smith.

People who believe they have been a victim of securities fraud should contact the Illinois Securities Department at 1-800-628-7937. If you suspect or know of an individual or company that is not complying with the tax laws, you may report this activity by contacting the local Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigation Division at (618) 622-2160 or by mailing information to: Internal Revenue Service, Fresno, CA 93888.

CONSPIRACY AND MAIL FRAUD

On July 21, 2010, a federal grand jury returned an indictment against **DARNELL DISROE**, age 38, and **MICHAEL LENTINE**, age 32, both of

Recent Noteworthy Cases, continued

Boynton Beach, Florida, and **MICHAEL STARACE**, age 42, of Lantana, Florida. **DISROE**, **LENTINE**, and **STARACE** were each charged with conspiracy to commit certain offenses against the United States and mail fraud. In addition, **DISROE** and **LENTINE** each face four counts of mail fraud and **STARACE** faces a single count of mail fraud. Each count carries a penalty of up to 25 years' imprisonment or a fine of up to \$250,000, or both, and up to five years' supervised release on each count.

The indictment alleges that the three operated under the name Real Timeshare Marketing and conducted a telemarketing timeshare resale scheme targeting timeshare owners throughout the United States and Canada. The indictment alleges that Real Timeshare Marketing falsely represented that it had found buyers for the consumers' timeshare interests and solicited fees of up to several thousand dollars from each consumer in purported pre-paid closing costs and related expenses.

The indictment alleges that the purported sales did not occur, closings were not scheduled as was often represented, and, in fact, Real Timeshare Marketing did not successfully sell any consumer's timeshare interest. It is further alleged that Real Timeshare Marketing devoted essentially no resources to marketing its clients' timeshare interest and simply pocketed the purported closing costs. In just a five-month period between roughly December 1, 2009, when the telemarketing sales commenced, and April 28, 2010, when the scheme was interrupted by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, it is alleged that Real Timeshare Marketing victimized approximately 615 consumers in 46 states and six provinces in Canada of over \$1,300,000.

The investigation was conducted by the U.S.

Postal Inspection Service and Boynton Beach, Florida Police Department.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Bruce E. Reppert.

On August 12, 2010, **DONISHA DANEA McSHAN**, age 35, of Belleville, Illinois, pled guilty to an indictment charging her with two counts of mail fraud and one count of access device fraud.

At the time of her plea, **McSHAN** entered into a factual stipulation which indicates that beginning in approximately April 2009 and continuing until approximately October 2009 in St. Clair County, Illinois, and elsewhere, **McSHAN** knowingly devised, intended to devise, and participated in a scheme to defraud which involved identity theft and access device fraud. **McSHAN** was entrusted with the social security number of an acquaintance, M.W. **McSHAN** thereafter used M.W.'s name and social security number without authority to apply for credit card accounts in the name of M.W. When applying for the credit card accounts in M.W.'s name, **McSHAN** provided the credit card companies with **McSHAN's** own address on 8th Street in Belleville, Illinois. Once the application to open an account was approved, the credit card company would use the United States mail to send a credit card to **McSHAN's** address. Upon receipt of a credit card in the name of M.W., **McSHAN** would use the credit card to make purchases and to incur charges.

Each of the mail fraud charges is punishable by a term of up to 20 years' imprisonment, a fine of up to \$250,000, or both, and up to three years' supervised release. Access device fraud is punishable by a term of up to 10 years' imprisonment, a fine of up to \$250,000, or both, and up to three years' supervised release. Sentencing is

Recent Noteworthy Cases, continued

currently scheduled for November 19, 2010.

The investigation was conducted by the St. Clair County Sheriff's Department and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Suzanne M. Garrison.

TAX OFFENSE

On July 26, 2010, **CHEVRON COMMERCIAL, INC.**, an Illinois corporation with business operations located in Highland, Illinois, entered a plea of guilty to an information charging conspiracy to impede, impair, obstruct, and defeat the functions of the Internal Revenue Service in the ascertainment, computation, assessment, and collection of federal excise tax. Immediately after the plea, **CHEVRON COMMERCIAL, INC.**, was sentenced to five years' probation, ordered to pay a \$400 special assessment, and was ordered as a condition of probation to assist the Internal Revenue Service in the assessment and collection of federal excise taxes from 2002 to the present and agreed to pay any duly determined and assessed federal excise taxes, unless a lesser amount is accepted by the Internal Revenue Service through an accepted offer in compromise.

According to information presented in open court, **CHEVRON COMMERCIAL, INC.**, received incomplete vehicles from several Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM). These incomplete vehicles typically consisted of a chassis and a cab. Each chassis and cab was accompanied by a placard affixed to the driver's door frame and a Certificate of Origin which indicated the gross vehicle weight rating. Typically, customers selected the chassis and cab from the lot and then customized the features they wanted for their vehicles. The additional equipment requested by the

buyer was installed at **CHEVRON**. The additional equipment sometimes included, but was not limited to a bed, pusher axle, tires, and paint.

As part of the plea, **CHEVRON COMMERCIAL, INC.**, admitted that a scheme used by **CHEVRON**, through its authorized officers, agents, and employees, in furtherance of the conspiracy, was to invoice the sale of the truck and pusher axle separately. Authorized officers, agents, and employees explained to their customers that their truck purchase would involve an invoice for the pusher axle separate from the IV Car Carrier. The invoice for the pusher axle would falsely show that it was a "ship out kit" making it appear that **CHEVRON** merely shipped the customer a single axle and had nothing to do with its installation when in reality it had been installed at **CHEVRON**. Authorized officers, agents, and employees further explained that they did this to make the single sale transaction for both the truck and the tag axle appear as if it were two separate, unrelated transactions.

Authorized officers, agents, and employees assured customers that the two separate transactions would prevent the Internal Revenue Service from discovering whether the sale of the truck with the installed pusher axle was taxable. Federal excise taxes were not collected for these sales.

The investigation was conducted by the Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigation Division.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Jennifer Hudson and Norman R. Smith.

August 1

United States: Earth Liberation Front (ELF) claimed responsibility for the arson of a five-story apartment complex under construction in San Diego, California. A banner warning "if you build it, we will burn it - ELF" was left at the site. Estimated damages were reported to be between \$20,000,000 and \$50,000,000. (2003)

August 2

Iraq: Car bomb explodes in front of Jordanian Embassy in Baghdad, killing 19 and injuring 50. (2003)

Iraq and Kuwait: Iraqi military forces invade Kuwait in a pre-dawn offensive. This followed a dispute over oil fields and their respective borders. The attack led to the Gulf War. (1990)

United States: The front porch of the townhouse of David Feldheim was firebombed, forcing Feldheim, his wife, his seven year old son, and his six year old daughter to flee through a second floor window on a fire-escape ladder. Feldheim is a molecular biologist at the University of California (UC) at Santa Cruz and conducts research on mice to understand how brain connections form during development. At almost the same time that Feldheim's residence was attacked, a Volvo station wagon belonging to a different researcher at the university was firebombed. Santa Cruz police described the firebombs in the attacks as "Molotov cocktails on steroids." No group immediately claimed responsibility for the two attacks. However, animal rights criminal extremists are strongly suspected because they have been engaged in a series of attacks against UC Santa Cruz animal researchers. (2008)

August 3

Colombia: The National Liberation Army (ELN) and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) coordinate attacks killing 106 soldiers and six civilians. (1998)

August 4

Israel: Suicide bomber kills nine and wounds more than 50 passengers aboard a bus; HAMAS claims responsibility. HAMAS is an acronym of Ḥarakat al-Muqāwamat al-Islāmiyyah, meaning "Islamic Resistance Movement," a Palestinian Islamic organization with a socio-political wing and a paramilitary force. (2002)

August 5

Philippines: Soldiers rescue 13 hostages after Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) beheads 10 of 23 kidnapped on August 2. The Abu Sayyaf Group is one of several militant Islamist separatist groups based in and around the southern islands of the Philippines. Since its inception in the early 1990s, the group has carried out bombings, kidnappings, assassinations, and extortion in what it describes as its fight for an independent Islamic state in the southern Philippines, populated by Muslims. (2001)

Indonesia: Car bomb explodes in front of Marriot Hotel in Jakarta, killing 13 and injuring 149; Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) responsible. Jemaah Islamiyah is a Southeast Asian militant Islamic organization dedicated to the establishment of a Daulah Islamiyah (Islamic State) in Southeast Asia incorporating Indonesia, Malaysia, the southern Philippines, Singapore, and Brunei. JI was added to the United Nations 1267 Committee's list of terrorist organizations linked to al-Qaeda or the Taliban on October 25, 2002, under UN Security Council Resolution 1267. (2003)

August 6

France: Former Iranian Prime Minister Shapur Bakhtiar and his assistant assassinated in Paris. (1991)

United States: Atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima, Japan. By executive order of President Harry S. Truman the U.S. dropped the nuclear weapon "Little Boy" on the city of Hiroshima followed by the detonation of "Fat Man" over Nagasaki (August 9). These two events are the only active deployments of nuclear weapons in war. The target was chosen as Hiroshima was a city of considerable military importance, containing Japan's Second Army Headquarters, as well as being a communications center and storage depot. Within the first two to four months of the bombings, the acute effects killed 90,000–166,000 people in Hiroshima and 60,000–80,000 in Nagasaki, with roughly half of the deaths in each city occurring on the first day. The

Hiroshima prefectural health department estimates that, of the people who died on the day of the explosion, 60% died from flash or flame burns, 30% from falling debris, and 10% from other causes. During the following months, large numbers died from the effect of burns, radiation sickness, and other injuries, compounded by illness. In a more plausible estimate of the total immediate and short term cause of death, 15–20% died from radiation sickness, 20–30% from flash burns, and 50–60% from other injuries, compounded by illness. In both cities, most of the dead were civilians. (1945)

August 7

Kenya and Tanzania: Simultaneous truck bomb explosions at the U.S. Embassies in the East African capital cities of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, and Nairobi, Kenya, killing 224, including 12 U.S. citizens; al-Qaeda responsible. The attacks, linked to local members of the Egyptian Islamic Jihad, brought Osama bin Laden and Ayman al-Zawahiri resulting in the Federal Bureau of Investigation placing bin Laden on its Ten Most Wanted list.

Colombia: Four bombings kill 13 people on the inauguration of President Uribe; FARC claims responsibility. (2002)

August 9

United States: Atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki, Japan. (1945)

August 10

United Kingdom: Police disrupt plot to attack planes flying to the U.S.; over 20 arrested; al-Qaeda suspected. (2006)

August 11

Philippines: Troops rescue three Filipinos from ASG; one U.S. hostage killed. (2001)

Islam: Ramadan begins in North America.

August 13

The website Bite Back and the website for the Animal Liberation Press Office posted communiqués from the Animal Liberation Front (ALF) in which the group claimed that during the early morning hours of August 8 they "ran up to a McDonalds in Denver with our hatchets and hammers, and smashed all of its windows on one side of the building and a glass door." The communiqué claimed that the attackers were dressed in black and had their faces covered. The communiqué also indicated that at the time of the vandalism, there were several cars in the parking lot and one car in the drive-through. The communiqué closed with the statement, "We were warriors that night, fighting for animal liberation and we will continue to fight until the killing and exploitation of all animals is brought to an end." (2009)

August 14

Thailand: JI key figure, Riduan Isamuddin, a.k.a. Hambali, arrested in Bangkok. (2003)

Pakistan: Independence Day, commemorates its independence from the British Commonwealth. (1947)

United States: World War II - Japan surrenders to the Allies. (1945)

August 15

Iraq: At least 400 killed, hundreds injured in four truck-bomb explosions in remote northern desert. (2007)

India: Independence Day commemorates its independence from British Commonwealth. (1930)

Iraq and Turkey: Turkish troops raid Kurdish rebel camps in Iraq. (1986)

Turkey: Kurdish Workers Party (PPK) elements launch an attack against Turkish government installation for the first time. (1984)

August 16

Afghanistan: Palestinian terrorist, Sabra al Bana, known as Abu Nidal, killed in Baghdad apartment. Saddam Hussein reportedly ordered Nidal's assassination. (2002)

August 17

Indonesia: Independence Day

August 18

Spain: Car bomb explodes in tourist area near Barcelona after warning call; Euskadi Ta Askatasuna (ETA) responsible. (2001)

August 19

Israel: HAMAS suicide bomber detonates bomb aboard a bus in Jerusalem, killing 20, including five U.S. citizens and injuring 140. (2003)

Iraq: Truck bomb explodes outside UN headquarters, killing 23, including UN official General Sergio Viera De Mello, and injuring 100. (2003)

Russia: Bomb attack at market in Astrakhan kills seven and wounds more than 50; Chechens suspected. (2001)

Pakistan: Suicide bomber attacks hospital in Dera Ismail Khan, killing more than 30; Taliban elements claim responsibility. (2008)

Algeria: Suicide car bomber kills 43 in attack on police academy in Issers; no claim of responsibility, but al-Qaeda in Lands of the Islamic Maghreb strongly suspected. (2008)

Algeria: Two synchronized car bombs kill 11 in Bouira, no claim of responsibility, but al-Qaeda in Lands of the Islamic Maghreb strongly suspected. (2008)

August 20

Afghanistan and Sudan: U.S. launches a cruise missile strike against suspected terrorist training camps in Afghanistan and Al Shifa, a pharmaceutical plant in Khartoum, in retaliation for bombings of U.S. Embassies in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, and Nairobi, Kenya. U.S. intelligence claims that Al Shifa is tied to the production of chemical weapons for bin Laden. The Sudanese government vehemently denied these claims.

August 21

United States: The siege at Ruby Ridge, Idaho, began. Ruby Ridge was the site of a violent confrontation and siege. It involved Randy Weaver, his family, Weaver's friend Kevin Harris, federal agents from the U.S. Marshals Service, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The incident was cited as a motivation for the Oklahoma City bombing of 1995. (1992)

Pakistan: Two Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM) members sentenced to death for the murder of four U.S. citizens. Muttahida Qaumi Movement is a political party in Pakistan. It is the largest liberal political party of Karachi, representing the immigrants who migrated from India to Pakistan in 1947. From 1992 to 1999, the MQM was the target of the Pakistan Army's Operation Cleanup leaving hundreds of civilians dead. (1999)

Pakistan: Two suicide bombers attack the country's main arms factory in the town of Wah, killing 60; Taliban elements claim responsibility. (2008)

August 23

Colombia: A car bomb explodes outside a police station in Marintilla, killing one and injuring 23; the National Liberation Army (ELN) blamed. (2001)

Worldwide: International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition.

August 24

Ukraine: Declares independence from the Soviet Union. (1991)

United States: Vandals smashed plate glass windows and a glass door and splattered paint inside and outside the St. Paul, Minnesota, campaign office of presidential candidate Barack Obama. Infoshop News posted on its website a communiqué from an anonymous person who claimed responsibility for the attack. The communiqué stated, "Today our friends in Denver will stand up to the electoral spectacle despite the violent threats of the police. Those who attacked this office stand in solidarity with our friends and loved ones in Denver. We look forward to seeing them in the streets." The communiqué was signed "at war, the conspiracy of shards of glass." (2008)

August 25

United States: ELF claimed responsibility for approximately \$1,000,000 in damage to a West Covina, California, sports utility vehicle auto dealership. Approximately 20 Hummer H2s and another 20 Hummers and Chevrolet Tahoes were vandalized. Vehicles at three other dealers and approximately four privately owned vehicles in the area were also damaged. (2003)

United States: Animal Liberation Front (ALF) claimed responsibility for release of 10,000 mink from a farm in Snohomish County in Washington, causing approximately \$500,000 in damage. (2003)

United States: At 2:20 a.m., 11 picture windows in the Democratic Party Headquarters in Denver, Colorado, were smashed by a hammer, causing around \$10,000 in damages. Party officials indicated that the attack appeared to target President Barack Obama's health reform plans. A police officer observed two people breaking the windows and was able to arrest Maurice Joseph Schwenkler, age 24, in connection with the attack. The second vandal escaped and was not immediately identified. Several websites indicated that Schwenkler uses the name "Ariel Attack." On December 21, 2009, Schwenkler pled guilty and received one year probation and was ordered to pay \$5,000 in restitution. (2009)

Belarus: Declares independence from the Soviet Union. (1991)

United States: George Lincoln Rockwell, leader of the American Nazi party, was shot and killed by a sniper at a shopping center in Arlington, Virginia. (1967)

Uzbekistan: Declares independence from Soviet Union. (1919)

August 26

United States: ELF claimed responsibility for vandalizing walls and equipment at a Wal-Mart construction site in Fairbanks, Arkansas. (2003)

Moldova: Declares independence from the Soviet Union. (1991)

August 28

Yemen: Car bomb kills six and wounds 12; Army of Aden-Abyan suspected. (1999)

August 29

Iraq: Shia Muslim cleric Ayatollah al-Hakim assassinated in Basra. (2003)

Canada: Mahmud Jaballah, an Egyptian-Canadian, was arrested for involvement in al-Qaeda bombing of U.S. Embassies in the East African capital cities of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, and Nairobi, Kenya. (2001)

Afghanistan: A truck bombing in central Kabul killed seven people, including two U.S. citizens and three Nepalis. Several other foreigners and Afghans were injured. The Taliban and a group called al-Qaeda Organization of Afghanistan made joint claims of responsibility. (2004)

August 30

Sri Lanka: The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam bomb outside a municipal building in Kalunai killing three and wounding seven. The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) is a separatist organization formally based in northern Sri Lanka. Founded in May 1976, it waged a violent secessionist campaign that sought to create an independent Tamil state in the north and east of Sri Lanka. This campaign evolved into the Sri Lankan Civil War, which was one of the longest running armed conflicts in Asia until the LTTE was militarily defeated by the Sri Lankan Military in May 2009. (2001)

United States: The siege at Ruby Ridge, Idaho, ended. (1992)

August 31

Thailand: One killed as more than 20 bombs explode almost simultaneously inside banks. (2006)

Israel: Two HAMAS bus bombings kill 16 in Beersheba. (2004)